ABC NEWS Live Coverage of The Assassination of President Kennedy Part 5

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From The Evening of Friday November 22nd 1963,ABC News Coverage of The Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

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now we're going to Dallas the scene of the president's assassination where our ABC affiliate WFAA TV has done a most remarkable job all this afternoon and evening capturing the pictorial elements of the tragic story we go back there now for a film resume of the president's last day of life one of our ABC executives has special knowledge and understanding of what it means to travel with the president and to experience the security precautions that are taken to protect the president's life I'm speaking of course of mr. James C Haggerty who for eight years was the presidential secretary news secretary for President Eisenhower Jim there's a general impression I'm sure that the Secret Service provides almost airtight security for the president that obviously was not the case today would you care to comment on that yes Ron I think that the Secret Service security is possible there is one thing that I'm sure all presidents share and I can speak to first-hand knowledge further than Eisenhower you put a president in an open clock you move them through crowded city streets with overhanging buildings and it's simply possible to put a man at each one of those windows but outside of that the security is checked and rechecked there was an advance party that goes to every place at the pogium news visiting they check and get the complete cooperation as I like the police the sheriff's office the state police or the line of route is investigated the line of duties mapped even timed on on a dry one and every single proportion there is taken although I had many many more decades in fact to many other Secret Service and indeed the retargeting himself and I think all of our presidents and reg Washington right up to President Kennedy are in jail in jeopardy - now here for

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are in jail in jeopardy - now here for instance is a film taken in Dallas just prior to the time the president was shot who had finished that he got off his airplane and then blew into the clouds Secret Service doesn't particularly like this that every president is going to with the fearless approach and the fatalistic approach you must hopefully don't personal safety we're going to go out and shake the hands of the people that haven't done him the honor of coming out to visit it however if you can watch this thing you can see the Secret Service are always with the president in a few minutes he will move a little out into the open so you can see him well there is a Secret Service man directly in front of him and a Secret Service man directly behind them and they firmly but politely are try try at all times to inject their body in between the president and the public this is part of their job but still of course they're surrounded all the while by a throng of milling people at all the time and there is always a chance of the crackpot or somebody with the an imagined prejudiced against the individual and I believe it was it proved that this particular part of this motorcade today was an arrangement that had been made rather late that's whatever I had not originally planned done fast but I think that there was a security checkup at the end of the way I'm sure there was Thank You mr. Hager the assassination of John F Kennedy like that of Abraham Lincoln of course came at a time when great national issues faced the

nation it's noteworthy that Kennedy who espoused the cause of racial equality came in the year of the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation the fatal shooting of Lincoln how he was attending a performance of our American cousin a

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performance of our American cousin a play at Ford's Theatre brought into being what was designed to be better protection for the chief executive but this so-called better protection did not prevent the assassination of President Garfield who was shot by a disappointed office seeker in July 1881 he died two months later in September 1901 President McKinley was killed by an anarchist in Buffalo two presidents in the 20th century have been the targets of assassination attempts that failed the first case was an attempt on the life of President elective of then president-elect Franklin D Roosevelt he was elected in November 1932 but as the last president to be inaugurated on March 20th under the old system he was still president-elect in February 1933 when an assassin tried to kill him in Miami the assassin described as an anarchist took aim at FDR but a woman in the street seized his arm upsetting his aim on the president-elect the bullet fatally wounded Mayor a Cermak of Chicago who was with the president in the motorcade when Cermak died three weeks later the assassin Joseph's cigar was tried convicted of murder and electrocuted another assassination attempt against the president that failed was made against President Truman on November 1st 1950 the White House was undergoing its long needed structural renovation at that time and the Truman family was living at Blair House on the afternoon of November 1st two men identified as members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement tried to shoot their way in the Blair House which is right across the street from the White House one of these men was killed by a White House guard and one of the guards Leslie cope it was mortally wounded the other would-be assassin was one recovered and was tried and convicted for the murders condemned to death the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by President Truman in July of 1952 in addition to the presidents who've been assassinated while in office an attempt was made on the life of former President Teddy Roosevelt while

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former President Teddy Roosevelt while he was campaigning for re-election on the bull moose ticket in 1912 that was a 3-way race between Roosevelt President Taft the official Republican candidate and Woodrow Wilson the Democratic nominee at the height of the 1912 campaign Teddy Roosevelt was shot by a maniac October 14th in Milwaukee he was getting into an automobile which was to take him to the Hall where he was scheduled to speak but despite the bullet wound Roosevelt insisted on making his address anyway and it was not until an hour and a half later after he was shot that he Alaskan decided to go to the hospital and of course he survived now the question uppermost in the minds of Americans tonight I'm sure is why why have there been so many attacks on the lives of president of the nation so far advanced in human progress for thoughtful study of that question here is ABC's Howard K Smith political assassinations are common tragedies in countries that are steeped in poverty or that have unstable political systems but in nations that are well-off and stable they are unusual except in the United States in Britain for example no Prime Minister has ever been assassinated in Scandinavia and Holland and Belgium as in England Chiefs of government often appear in public without bodyguards and nothing untoward happens why in this wealthy and very stable country have in our relatively short history or presidents been murdered and many more assaulted with attempt to murder despite since the turn of the century huge bodyguards that question has never been answered satisfactorily but the three most cogent reasons I have heard are these the frontier tradition of settling by violence rather than by persuasion is still pretty recent and is still a strong force in America as shown by our fascination with Old West gunplay movies and on television the other stable nations are homogeneous nations

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stable nations are homogeneous nations all people of one stock living together for centuries are for thousands of years we are a polyglot nation of recent origin in the first decade of the present century we were trying to absorb around a million immigrants a year no nation has ever tried that before it has advantages but there's no doubt that loyalties do not solidify as rapidly or at least they come loose more readily especially among weak-minded individuals that is the case in one people nations but the most cogent reason for the record of assassination is a matter of political education America is technically a highly literate nation but the degree of political illiteracy is also high the political system with power divided between states and federal government and within each power further divided among three complex branches is hard to understand and most people simply do not understand it the poet political leaders don't give the people a great deal of help politicians in this country especially are given to talking slogans they've been called cheerleaders rather than arguments and explanation the result is our politicians are convincing an awful lot of people by exaggerated and alarming sloganeering that we are in grave dangers that are not in fact very grave other nations demented individuals take it out in other ways but ours seem to have a strong tendency to try to become messiahs and to eliminate the leader who is allegedly putting us in all that danger if that argument is correct we have a huge and important incomplete job of mass political education to do as a matter of most urgent priority Thank You Howard Smith there is late news now from the White House and we go directly there for Bill lon just minutes ago lyndon b johnson completed his first evenings work as president of the united states now he has left the executive office building across the street from the

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building across the street from the White House and been driven under police escort to his home in the Spring Valley section of washing mr. Johnson chose not to move into the White House offices of the assassinated President Kennedy tonight but worked instead from the suite of offices that he occupied when he was vice president here tonight the new president has met with legislative leaders and talked the world situation with Secretary of Defense McNamara and the White House security adviser George Bundy he has also talked by telephone with J Edgar Hoover the director of the FBI about the assassination of the president in Dallas Texas this afternoon and he has been on the phone with doctors attending Texas Governor John Connally who was also wounded when the president was killed the word of the White House tonight is that Governor Connally is coming along well the White House itself is empty except for a swarm of newsmen around here and officials still on their job mrs. Kennedy is still at Bethesda Naval Hospital for her husband's body was taken after it was brought back here by jet aircraft this afternoon with her is the Attorney General Robert F Kennedy we have no word where the Kennedy children Carolyn and young John Jr have been taken the White House is keeping that secret and as far as the White House knows they had not at a late hour tonight yet been informed of their father's death the funeral plans for the president's burial of now taking final form the body as we told you earlier will be brought to the White House tomorrow where it will be with an honor guard of soldiers sailors Marines and airmen will lie in repose in the East Room beginning about 10:00 a.m. the

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East Room beginning about 10:00 a.m. the president's immediate family will be there from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and from 11:00 to 2:00 President Johnson the Speaker of the House mr. John W McCormack the Chief Justice Earl Warren and former President Eisenhower will be here to view the body and pay their final respects to President Kennedy former president Harry Truman will be in Washington for the funeral and for other ceremonies but cannot reach here tomorrow mr. Hoover whose health is not good former President Hoover will not be able to come down tomorrow or on Sunday on Sunday the body will move in a formal court age up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol where it will lie in state beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday there will be a ceremony then attended by members of the president's family cabinet and government leaders members the Supreme Court members of the Congress and diplomatic representatives of foreign country and then the public will be given its first opportunity to pass the beer of the president from shortly after its arrival at about one o'clock on Sunday until 9:00 p.m. on Sunday and then for a single hour on Monday from 9:00 until 10:00 a.m. on Monday at 11:00 o'clock the body will be moved to st. Matthew's

Cathedral on Rhode Island Avenue not far from the White House where at 12:00 noon a Pontifical Requiem Mass will be said by Richard Cardinal Cushing this is Bill Lawrence at the White House when news of the president's assassination first arrived this afternoon I'm sure that the universal reaction across the country of almost all people was disbelief it seemed a thing that could not happen but later of course now many hours after the actual

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course now many hours after the actual assassination it has been accepted as a fact the nation is plunged into deep saw a glimpse of that sorrow that's being expressed tonight in New York st. Patrick's Cathedral st. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue in New York is a scene of a small part of the national mourning for the late president silent saddened people many of them non Catholics have come to the Cathedral well mr. Kennedy has often worshipped when he was in the before the main altar of the Cathedral people of many faiths kneel in silent grief and in prayerful remembrance of the man who led the nation until his final moment today when a sniper's bullet crushed out his life as his customary in memorial morning in the Roman Catholic Church a symbolic casket surrounded by lighted candles rests in front of the high altar the casket will remain there throughout memorial services and a Requiem Mass for the late president Cardinal Spellman of New York was a close personal friend of both the late President and other members of his family the Cardinal is now enrollment pending the ecumenical council but it's likely that he may return the United States for the funeral of mr. Kennedy or for a memorial service these are things inside st. Patrick's Cathedral the mourners there are a reflection of a world of mourning millions will pray for him millions of others will simply remember the late president in silence and I'm sure they will forget at this hour that they disagreed with one another about his policies they will forget that his philosophy and style of statecraft sometimes did not agree with them they will recall him to the president who embraced the full burden of his office who said not long ago that the fear of nuclear war haunted them they will remember his quick smile and the width of his ancestors they will remember how hard he worked in his quest for a world

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hard he worked in his quest for a world at peace this has been a special report on the assassination of President Kennedy in the coming to office of Lyndon Baines Johnson been a presentation of ABC News eight hours since John F Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas Texas the news striking like a cold iron fist across the nation and the entire world it seems unbelievable it was unbelievable when it happens and it still has not been credible to summarize death came at 1:30 this afternoon Eastern Standard Time by a shot from a high-powered rifle which pierced the president's forehead as he rode in an open car waving and smiling to a crowd of a quarter of a million persons the president collapsed in the arms of his wife who uttered Oh No the president died just a half-hour later the nation has a new leader Lyndon Baines Johnson took the oath of office in the presidential plane even as that plane is taking the late president and his widow back to Washington Johnson becomes the 37th President of the United States and at Andrews Air Force Base he asked for the support of the American people and the help of God in the days to come a funeral mass for the late president will be said Monday in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington by Richard Cardinal Cushing a spokesman for the Cardinals of the Mass will be at 1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time there will be no eulogy this still photograph of mrs. Kennedy was made earlier tonight as she arrived in Washington on the Air Force jet bearing the president's body back to the Capitol attorney General Robert Kennedy met her at plane side and remained with her during the ride afterward to Bethesda hospital where mr. Kennedy's body is tonight here the casket containing the

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here the casket containing the president's body is visible and it was unloaded from the plane this is one of the very first photographs of Lyndon Johnson after he became the president it was taken in Washington moments after he arrived on the plane bringing mr. Kennedy's body the new president with mrs. Johnson at his side issued a brief statement declaring the president's death a deep personal tragedy shared by the

world the chief suspect is a 24-year old ex-marine Lee Harvey Oswald seen here in the middle about four years ago he turned up in Moscow told US embassy officials he wanted to become a Soviet citizen but then returned to this country with his Russian he is an admitted Marxist and chairman of what is called the fair play for Cuba committee Oswald worked in the same building from which the assassin fired the bullets that killed President Kennedy and wounded Texas Governor Connally we survived sometime later a Dallas policeman stopped the man identified as Oswald on a street four miles from the scene of the assassination the man pulled the gun and killed the policeman a few minutes later a theater owner tipped off police that Oswald had just entered his theater when four policemen charged inside Oswald pulled a gun but it misfired and the poor policeman jumped on him instead he still denies that he's the assassin but the evidence implicating him is mounting steadily Oswald has been charged with the shooting of that Dallas policeman but has not as yet been charged with the assassination of President Kennedy in Boston ABC affiliate WN AC has contacted an expert on the fair play for Cuba committee for the interview we go to Boston and reporter Palmer Payne Lee Oswald is now branded as the chief suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy his known as a member of the fair play for Cuba committee to find out more about this organization we will talk to Gordon Hall another that lecturer and author and extremist groups

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lecturer and author and extremist groups both the right and left Gordon what type of an organization is the fair play for Cuba committee briefly the fair play for Cuba committee is a group which obviously is in love with the Cuban Revolution and feels that the revolution is not been fairly represented in the American press and radio and TV unless they formed a few years ago in an effort to get what they think is a fair shake for that group it's a pro-castro pro-communist group active in the United States at the present time now some weeks ago you planted an agent for the group of students that went to Cuba was this group basically fair play for Cuba committee members yes I find my tear that I planted an agent or a young man from Boston named Barry Hoffman in this student delegation to Cuba the expense of the Castro government and I did this with a full knowledge of course of American governmental security agencies but I would say that while the fair play for Cuba crowd did not officially sponsor the tour the many of the students are active in the fair play for Cuba group and many of the leaders are quite familiar with the propaganda of fair play with people that I don't without any question what did very Hoffman report to you that he seemed to feel that these people are as violently inclined as we might think today Barre reported to me of course while he was there after he came back and we've naturally been in close touch relations were both very shocked and grieved over the loss of the president Barry told me especially in Washington DC Palmer during the time when the House Committee hearings were taking place over that the students who were causing violence by provoking the Capitol police into the ejection of the various spectators who were also fair play for Cuba people and sympathetic to these students who went down Barry told both myself and the press at that time that many of these young so-called students were active revolutionaries and would be quite

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revolutionaries and would be quite capable of killing people including the chairman of the House Committee if the opportunity presented itself and I remember that while I believed in many members of the press sort of scoffed at this and felt that Barry is young and therefore he's overdramatic on this score but we both came where the feelings of this could actually happen but isn't the assassination of a prominent rural figure a leader of the free world the contrary to the current communist movement and its plan while one would think when a lessening of tensions in the current Cold War period that yes this would be true but by the same token communist has historically followed the rule that the end justifies the means and therefore I think that they could say to them so American communist or Cuban Communist to Russian communists that the elimination of the leader for example in the Western world would bring about a chaotic situation that would ultimately claim to their homes I think this would be based on the old communist action that the end justify the means as strange as it may seem I think they could do that and restraint is amazing I think American Communist could fulfill that role the fair play the committee's well-organized we post coast it's well organized but it isn't large and I'd say well organized I mean that it's it's single purpose it concentrate solely on the

Cuban Revolution and trying to bring about a favorable situation here for the Castro regime and it's well organized in the sense that it has an office in San Francisco New York Chicago and so on and obviously from today's reports has sympathizers in the city of Dallas Texas it isn't large but it's it's fanatical and a single purpose and no one knows I imagine the exact number of members of that play secure that small good day today I think you'll find their mailing addresses in New York City but perhaps their greatest impact has been on the west coast in San Francisco you anticipated it at poisoned against the organization yes I would I would

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the organization yes I would I would think that if it turns out that this young man is indeed the assassin and I suspect he may well be then I would think that the officers were they fair play for Cuba scroll across the door attempted on the actual law may well be in for some violence this weekend I would think of American people when they perhaps the source and the origin of the assassination they will decide to take along your own hands I hope this is not the case because this will prove nothing the president is dead it's a terrible thing but I don't think today would be proved by smashing up various Offices of the fair play for Cuba committee but I would think this is determined around the United States that violent o7a yes there's a state of extremist groups in both the right being left how do you protect might be the impact the president's Association on all of these organizations I would hope that this would be the kind of a real awakening there is necessary on a question such as is that the people who realize that regardless of how small a group may be in any community that an extremist organization because it's extreme and because it is fanatical and sometimes violent can exercise an influence all out of proportion to its numbers and I would hope that this would be a a terrible lesson indeed the American people that we must take extremist movements more seriously than we do we have a tendency to sort of dismiss them on the basis that they are in the minority numerically and therefore than unimportant and I think the fact that fair play for Cuba can generate enough emotion to cause a follower to take the life of the president if this is what has happened then I would think this would certainly norman's education lesson for the american people what is old thank you very much thank you thank you Palmer Payne extremists reaction something that one can always expect hi emotionalism after a tragic event like today's extremists relaxed their reactions have

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extremists relaxed their reactions have apparently started a threatening telephone calls for example poured into the office of conservative Texas Republican Senator John tower after neither posited Kennedy's assassination today a spokesman said that mrs. tower and the senator's family left their Washington residence for an undisclosed location in the country the telephone calls according to the spokesman threatened the senator's family with violence a staff aide said that he informed the senators in st. Louis a telegram reaching the senator's office read you and your radical right-wing should be well satisfied the president knew death may God have mercy on your soul with more is coming in about Lee Harvey Oswald the principal suspect in the Kennedy assassination last summer Oswald was interviewed on a New Orleans radio station at the same time he described himself a Marxist but denied that he was a communist he was interviewed shortly after he had been fined ten dollars for disturbing the peace a conviction growing out of a scuffle that when anti-castro Cubans objected to his passing out pro-castro literature on the panel Oswald was asked the difference between a Marxist and a communist and he compared it to the difference between Russia or China and a country such as Ghana members of the shock shock the stricken family of the president the late president headed for his Cape Cod town hometown of Hyannis Port to join the president's parents at their seaside home there the president 73 year old mother lode learned of her being the son of assassination in Dallas while playing at behind a sportin golf course there was no word on her reaction but she quickly drove home to be with her husband former ambassador Joseph Pete Kennedy will switch now to Washington for further updating there and Edward P Morgan what can a reporter report from the White House on a night like this not

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White House on a night like this not much at this particular moment President Lyndon Johnson has gone home not to the White House but the home that he is occupied in Washington for several years as vice president he will be back here tomorrow to see as you heard earlier Dean Rusk at 9:30 in the morning and General Eisenhower the former president at 11:30 the news from here at the moment is sentiment heartbreak and disbelief the reporters who were with President Kennedy on the trip to Texas have now come back they're comparing notes and let it be said not to unobjective journalistic reporting that they are saddened and red eyed and not entirely from fatigue the you cannot see this that as I look out over the camera I can hear the whistles of the policeman directing traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue there is a jam of cars driving slowly in front of the White House the crowds of people massed in Lafayette Square on the other side of the White House standing there curious saddened silent as I walked to the White House just a few moments ago from the ABC news bureau on Connecticut Avenue people seemed to sense the tragedy as they walked headlines from the afternoon newspapers were strewed on the street here in the White House offices people are working and yet their fingers and their hearts are numb they do not seem to know and why should they what exactly they are doing that there's one do in the transition in the night of transition from one president to another in the cradle of shock of something of this kind McGeorge Bundy the president's chief advisor for international security

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advisor for international security affairs has been working all day he is working on into the night having consulted undoubtedly with President Johnson I saw mr. Bundy almost seconds after the news had been confirmed in the White House this afternoon that President Kennedy was dead almost automatically almost by reflex we gripped each other's hands he was red eyed he said nothing and walked on Ralph Dungan with whom this reporter happened by chance to have lunch today when the news came through came back to the White House and has been working unceasingly ever since sergeant Shriver the president's brother-in-law and head of the Peace Corps has taken over the multifarious details of the family arrangements regarding the funeral the burial of the president and thousands of other important and sad details mr. Shriver is here now in the White House as he will be undoubtedly through the night Washington as it was undoubtedly 98 years ago what give or take a few months is reeling from shock and that is hardly a misrepresentation or an exaggeration people are going through the motions of things the government is in order a new president is in the cockpit and will be taking up the official affairs of state further tomorrow morning no details have been announced yet as to what the services for President Kennedy will be his body has remained at the Bethesda Naval Hospital about 10 miles straight out 16th Street from here mrs. Kennedy is spending the night in private and her children as you undoubtedly know have gone up to the

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undoubtedly know have gone up to the family home in Massachusetts I spoke a moment ago with one of the presidents many secretaries who had been with him during the campaign in early 1960 on through the conventions and had made several trips with him including his trip last summer to Europe on which I was one of the ABC correspondents what is the exchange between a reporter and a president staff member on something like that a grip of the hand a look in the eye a shake of the head and that is about all there is to it Washington is treading water and trying to keep its head above it it's about all that and more of the same this is Edward P Morgan at the White House in Washington a pictured story through words now really as we talked about the crowd that gathered around the Johnson home in Washington and anticipation of the arrival from Texas crowds of people began arriving at the private home of the new president and mrs. Johnson about two hours before they were even due to arrive at 6:08 this evening from Texas men not allowed past the front gates of that stone mansion which is perched high on a hill in the suburban Spring Valley section of Washington the home formerly owned by socialite pearl mr. Luci Baines Johnson 16 year old daughter of the president arrived home from school accompanied by two girlfriends about 4 o'clock she was driven through the gates and a white convertible with a police escort earlier in the afternoon a personal friend of mrs. Johnson mrs. veiled Miller went into the house and had not emerged by 7:00 p.m. another daughter Linda 19

is at the University of Texas and it will not immediately known when she would return to Washington to messenger's arrived bearing four dozen red roses one was addressed to the president and mrs. Johnson a second bouquet of roses

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Johnson a second bouquet of roses addressed to mrs. Johnson tonight mrs. Johnson said that the vents of the past few hours seemed like a dreadful nightmare those were her words somehow she said we must find the strength to go on this is Johnson's statement was read by an aide Elizabeth carpenter and that seems to answer to reporters questions tonight she could say only that the new president and mrs. Johnson had both talked to mrs. Rose Kennedy neither of the late president aboard the plane enroute from Texas the Johnson Craig mrs. Kennedy at her home in Hyannis Port Massachusetts from that phone on mrs. carpenter also confirmed that the Johnson eldest daughter Linda 19 was not coming to Washington from her classes at the University of Texas more news from Washington is original to ABC's bill Lawrence there the many members of the Kennedy family always a closely knit plan shared many responsibilities and duties tonight in this tragic day of President Kennedy's assassination brother Robert F Kennedy the Attorney General is it Bethesda Naval Hospital with mrs. John F Kennedy where the president's body was taken to remain overnight after it was brought back by jet plane in the Dallas Texas a fascination seen brother ever tell me Kennedy who won the president's resigned a Senate seat from Massachusetts till this afternoon with his sister Eunice Shriver July Hannah sport Massachusetts on Cape Cod to be with the elder Joseph P Kennedy still gravely affected by a stroke that he suffered in December 1961 mr. Stryver's husband Sargent Shriver the director of the Peace Corps took charge of the funeral arrangements and has been at the White House just in the last few minutes all right the Kennedy children Carolyn and John F J both of whom have

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and John F J both of whom have birthday's coming up in the next few days left the White House about 5:30 this afternoon now the White House will not say where they went in mid evening acting White House press secretary Andrew Hatcher said that the Kennedy children still had not been informed of their father's death although accurate information is not available it would it would be a good guess that the Kennedy children may be with Ethel Kennedy wife of the Attorney General at their McLean Virginia home this is Bill Lawrence at the White House the president 73 year old mother Rose learned of her famous son's assassination in Dallas while playing at the Hyannisport golf course there was no word on her reaction but she quickly drove home to be with her husband former ambassador Joseph P Kennedy the elder Kennedy's 75 is the semi invalidity result of a stroke over two years ago within hours after the tragic news Senator Edward M Kennedy the president's youngest brother and his sister your niece mr. Sargent Shriver arrived by plane as you heard the Lawrence described it to be by their parents I'd reported on results will Attorney General Robert Kennedy and his sisters in Boston the president's maternal grandmother mrs. John F Fitzgerald who only three weeks ago observed her 98th birthday knew nothing of the death of her illustrious grandson her son Thomas a Fitzgerald with whom she lives sadly asked newsman what would be the purpose of telling her at her age the elderly woman received a gay bouquet from the president and the first lady on her birthday just three weeks ago along the streets of Hyannis Port where the president has been a familiar figure since boyhood news of his death was received with strong silence in most cases with the news state and local police immediately barred all unauthorized persons from the spreader Avenue area where the several Kennedy homes are situated in Hyannis Port this precaution usually necessary only when the president was at his summer home but

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the president was at his summer home but the police barriers went up with several automobiles and pedestrians moved toward the seaside area ironically the President and all the many children of the Kennedy a clan had planned to return to Hyannis Port next Thursday for the traditional family Thanksgiving Day gathering President Johnson House Speaker John W McCormack and Earl Warren Chief Justice of the

United States are scheduled to arrive between 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. when the president write the Eisenhower will be present at that time - that's tomorrow the White House said I'm a President Herbert Hoover expressed regret that he would be unable to attend the services for the president family president harry s truman is planning to arrive in Washington on Sunday members of the cabinet executive branch officials appointed by Kennedy and close personal friends are also scheduled to arrive at the White House between 11:00 and 2:00 associate justices of the Supreme Court members of the federal judiciary are to be present from 10:00 to 10:30 p.m. between 2:30 and 5 members of Congress and governors are scheduled to arrive the diplomatic corps will follow between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Cardinal Cushing who will say the funeral mass is a longtime friend of the Kennedy family gave the invocation at the president's inauguration officiated at his marriage baptized the tenth Kennedy children and presided - at the funeral mass for young Patrick Bouvier Kennedy the first family son who died within 40 hours after birth just last August this Justin attested determined weather is not yet determined yet which Court would have jurisdiction or the President Kennedy's killer state or federal the assassin who killed the president our President James Garfield I should say was tried by a military tribunal apparently under the theory that the President as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces is a military man

[00:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2401s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2401s)

some reaction from the Congress senator Allen Bible Democrat from the Nevada said today civilization never has suffered a more tragic day senator towers received threatening phone calls tonight at his home but in company with all loyal Americans I am shocked beyond words at this terrible tragedy that has revisited upon our land leaders of both political parties have joined to welcome them to our state I mean the founder president as our national leader as the president of all our people there are no words to express my shock and dismay in President Johnson and mrs. Kennedy today received telegrams from Puerto Rico and their governor Luis Munoz marine bearing condolences for the grieving first lady and encouragement as well to the new president flags at half-mast and church bells tolling a telegram to Johnson read we are with you mr. president and your great personal sorrow and your immense need public responsibilities governor and mrs. Nunez expressed shock and deep grief at the assassination and telegrammed mrs. Kennedy that mrs. muñoz and myself as he said are with you and the children in your great sorrow senator Hugh Scott from Pennsylvania said the Republic still stands an assassin who killed a man not the presidency we must all rally around the new President of the United States in this time of national crisis and pray for the health strength and well-being president lyndon b johnson we must give him our understanding and our help as GOP leader Charles Halleck cool met the president of the first one to shake his hand from the airport said that the assassination of President Kennedy is an unspeakable crime against all the people of this country and Senator Russell of Georgia the assassins board has stricken a brilliant and dedicated statesman at the very height of his powers for another reaction from Washington we switch now

[00:42:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2522s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2522s)

reaction from Washington we switch now to ABC's John Robson no other American vice president who have suddenly had to assume the presidency has been so thoroughly prepared for the awesome job as Lyndon Johnson does of the way President Kennedy organized his government Lyndon Johnson has been on the inside of the highest councils of the administration since it began a particular contrast that is freshest in memory of Harry Truman's elevation to the presidency on Franklin D Roosevelt death Vice President Truman was an outsider during the Roosevelt administration yes said he really nothing of what had been going on when he moves into the White House but Lyndon Johnson as vice president participated intimately in the policy councils of the Kennedy administration as president he's in a position to continue or change policies from ride and deep knowledge of what policy hasn't been and why a recent week says opponents have been publicizing widely the idea that Lyndon Johnson was the forgotten man of the kennedy administration whatever happened to Lyndon Johnson the one shuttle with lighting slogans against him some political circles were promoting the rumor that he was to be dropped from the ticket next year a lunar intended to help get him dropped it isn't testimony to his political wisdom that as vice president he did not project himself into the public eye we self effacing is an extremely difficult job no man like Johnson who is so

thoroughly a political man and so prominent a public figure in his own right yet self-effacement is what the peculiar institution of the vice presidency demands partly for this reason that numerous and non entities have been placed in it in the past because no president can afford to have his power delivered and his own image and future bird by a vice-president who is an open competitor for public favor and for opposing policies the required degree of leaving

00:44:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2641s)

policies the required degree of leaving center states the President Kennedy has fought Lyndon Johnson achieved as vice president and was helped cement a strong mutual respect between the two men at the same time Lyndon Johnson was extremely busy he was effective with legislation in Congress he was a diplomatic troubleshooter on the president's assignment and a goodwill ambassador abroad many times he made many under publicized forays through the United States speaking on behalf of the president's program notably on civil rights and he ran some big government programs as head of the space Council head of the Commission to promote equality of opportunity for all races and unions and Industry with these he was closely associated with the administration's policy decisions foreign and domestic and together these elements have combined to make Lyndon Johnson the first vice president in our history was had to assume the presidency suddenly and was prepared to do so the unspeakable news of President Kennedy's death spread like wildfire through this capitol city today and we've learned almost universally with disbelief crowds gathered quickly on the sidewalks and in the parks across the street from the White House even more people are there tonight since the word was confirmed that the president was dead the American flag above the White House has been thrown at half-staff the great iron gates have been closed for the public the new President of the United States Lyndon Johnson came there tonight the area around the White House was heavily congested with the coming and going officials clouds waited perhaps for a glimpse of President Johnson or of the dead president being brought home probably nowhere more than in Washington are so many persons of high and low estate so affected by the loss of John Kennedy but it may be belted that the tragedy has been fully grasped by many as yet full impact struck the mind and

00:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2760s)

as yet full impact struck the mind and heart together these comments at random on the streets today I'm come down and I'm deeply ashamed and disadvantaged at all I'm sure everyone from a city in failure though deeply shocked with this event does the American people have thank you but what a terrible thing to do where are you running to man as that other foreign embassies here the Russians Lord their flag to half-staff on learning of the death of the president Russian ambassador Dobrynin came out of the embassy for this very brief comment I am given so that it's terrible news on Capitol Hill the house was in recess the Senate promptly adjourned and Congress members Democratic and Republican joined in expressions of loss and started good this recent this Kitely man this harassed man who had so much on his shoulders and received from some people so little in the way of supported return this man has now gone to his reward and I will miss him as a personal friend and nation will miss them is a great

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=2880s)

nation will miss them is a great president and the world will miss him as a great leader I'd say it's an incredible thing and my heart goes out to the family and that I'm a little frankly I'm a little bit winded by this turn of events as I know the nation and the whole wide world will be so first my sincere sympathy to the entire Kennedy family and in the language of the chaplain as we had a prayer in the hall that transfusion might infuse recovery that the nation still stands and the nation will live the heart of the entire world rose up to mrs. Kennedy and to all of the members of his family in this hour that's blended family run the most remarkable families on earth and all of us then sympathize with them in this very tragic out you knew President Kennedy a long time didn't you yes good many years anyone as a matter of fact I gave him where

I speak I gave the oath of office when he and Nixon came in the same day and I've known this folks in it his father and all of his family matter of fact I was at it wouldn't an important occupied a few with the mrs. Fitzgerald Webb time the man who broke the news first to the

00:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=3001s)

the man who broke the news first to the Senate as an employee of 45 years now liaison man between news men and Senators Richard Goodell I immediately went into the Senate chamber so that over 2 in front of the desk of Majority Leader Senator Mike Mansfield raised my voice so that he and the Senators the surrounding desk come here and said senators the president has been shot it of course was like a shockwave a jolt across the aisle to the Republican side where senator Dirksen was seething and in the same manner told senator Dirksen and the Republican senators who were at adjacent desk I would approach the same shock reaction and fun expression on their faces I then happened to recall that a few moments before the president's brother Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts was presiding over the Senate I turned and he was still occupying the chair I knew that someone would have to inform me I thought I might as well it was a very difficult very difficult job because of the family relationship as well as the friendship of the son of his student husband I rushed up to the chair and said senator senator Kennedy your brother's the president has been chopped he gave up good in his body his body tensed but he was absolutely calm and as I recall senator Kennedy been presiding over the Senate and he heard this awful news said

00:52:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=3122s)

Senate and he heard this awful news said no and that was all the voice and face of that longtime Senate employee Richard Radel mirror perhaps as accurately as could be done the depths of emotion was stirred today on Capitol Hill this is John Lawson in Washington now to ABC's bill Lawrence at the White House Palm Beach Florida with its sporty golf courses and warm Atlantic waters there's one of President Kennedy's favorite vacation retreats and it was there at the Palm Beach Country Club and the president and I had played so many rounds of golf together but I first heard this afternoon the word that he had been shot I just met finished putting on the par-5 9th hole with the president used to birdie with remarkable consistency and I was coming to the clubhouse with news of an emergency the radios in the locker room already were blaring the news of the assassination attempt all of us all his friends were stunned disbelieving of the tragic news they're still hoping against hope that these wounds would not prove fatal just a week ago this afternoon when the president came down to Florida for a weekend of work and play and a five-day speaking tour in Miami and a55 speeches in one day in Tampa and Miami I was waiting at the bottom of the plane ramp as he descended and I told him about the remarkable improvements that have been made this summer in the golf course that he loved so well but his back with a keg again and so he had to pass up his last opportunity to play the game it was the Palm Beach that the president have repaired for a much-needed holiday immediately after the grueling campaign and close election of 1960 I played a

00:54:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=3242s)

and close election of 1960 I played a lot of golf with him then and collected a lot of news at the same time as the cabinet was being formed he talked quite frankly as we walked about the golf course about the persons he was considering for the cabinet and other high administration posts some of these he later named and others he passed up but as he exercised at golf he seemed to enjoy talking about his work about the problems that he faced the same was true at Hyannis Port on Cape Cod and at Newport in Rhode Island as he functioned as president he was a good golfer too capable of shooting in the 70s with a little more practice and a consistent mid 80 shooter with playing as infrequently as he did I have lost a good friend this is Bill Lawrence at the White House it was just 608 p.m. Eastern Standard Time four and a half hours after the assassination that the president's Air Force one big jet plane a familiar sight to many in this country and abroad touched down at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington carrying its precious cargo of two presidents

a special van was at the rear exit of this plane to take the casket the bronze casket of the late President the bronze casket has just been put into the lift truck shortly to be removed into the end of the hearse which will take it onto this hesitant

00:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=3361s)

the plane is well illuminated at night the lift of the special van brings the presidential party and the casket to ground level and it will be shortly lifted off into the hearse in that van the president's wife is with Jacqueline Kennedy his brother attorney General Robert Kennedy an honor guard stands at attention as the ambulance slowly backs toward the van President Johnson let's come off the plane and is working his way through the crowd of high government officials he was first greeted before the scene began by congressman Halleck of Indiana George ball McGeorge Bundy of the cabinet as in Johnson with his back toward us now and his wife by his right side walk slowly ultimately to a position to make his first statement as chief executive

00:58:07 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-LhlWqSBSw&t=3487s)

the helicopter which would take him to the Rose Garden of the White House is in the picture now as he embarks on the last leg of the journey which will put him literally in the White House

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